

Secondhand Smoke Contractor Conference Call

March 9, 2005

Welcome and Roll Call

- **Participants:** Mary Arrow (sub for Karen Potts, Adams), Amy Ward (Benton-Franklin), Dawn Maloney (Cowlitz), Teresa Cross (Clark), Rachel Anderson (Clallam), Vicky Hodgson (Columbia), Jennifer Davenport and others (Chehalis Tribe), Jennifer (Samish Tribe), Sandy Aikins (Island), Pat Meldrich (Grays Harbor), Celisa Hopkins and Chelsea (Yakima), Lisa Dixon (Garfield), Noah Citron(King), Barbara Smithson (Kitsap), Sonia Ferguson(Lewis), Danita Cincovich (Lincoln), Heidi Iyall (Mason), Linda Cramer (Thurston), Pam Wessel-Estes (Snohomish), Terry Lerud (Pierce), Julie Scholler (Pierce and ALA), Tammie Cochran (Whitman), Alyssa Pavitt (Whatcom), Susann Bassham (Walla Walla), Katie Oien (Pacific), Diane Rousseau (Asotin), Susan Martin (ESD 105), Jennifer Hanson (Spokane), Lorie Nelson (TPRC), Angela Campbell (Thurston), Alana Tebow (Grant), Tom Wiedemann (DOH), Megan Sullivan (Skagit), Judy Preston (Chelan-Douglas), GMMB, Tammie Shaw (SHSCAP)

SHS Information and Resource Sharing

- **Tobacco Free Parks – Amy Ward (Benton Franklin)**

Amy heard that Spokane had been able to establish a smoke-free policy for their parks in the summer of 2004. In an effort to build on the work that Spokane had already done, Amy contacted them and they sent her information that helped to get the process started in her county.

 - She contacted the city and they put her on the agenda for the parks and recreations committee. She went to the meeting and had a very receptive crowd. The community feels strongly that SHS should not be around children and therefore the committee was very supportive. The committee approved of the policy and passed it on to the council. The council was supportive, but wanted to know a little bit more about enforcement. Those details were ironed out, a city code was created and it passed in February.
 - The code addresses all tobacco use, puts a twenty-foot perimeter around all park spaces and is not voluntary. Infractions are considered misdemeanors and can be enforced. Most likely the new code will be enforced verbally by other people at the park.
 - The county is now in the process of making signs.
- Amy indicated that having these calls has been really helpful because contractors are able to stay informed on what other counties are doing and can contact them to get help and information when they move into an area someone else has already focused on. The support of other contractors is a huge asset.
- Questions for Amy included:
 - When did the process start? – The first meeting was in October, and then the policy should have gone to the council in November, however there was a little miscommunication and it didn't end up on the agenda until the January meeting. After the January meeting things moved

very quickly and the policy was put into place in February. Their prior work on community awareness has probably helped to move the process forward because this issue is at the forefront of people's minds.

- Do you have a timeline? – No, Amy met with the city first to make sure that the staff would be on board and then approached the policy makers.
- How can other contractors access these resources? – SHSCAP is compiling all of the information on how to move forward with a process like this and it will be posted to the website upon completion. In the meantime, they can contact SHSCAP.

SHS Presentation to Head Start/ECEAP – Heidi Iyall (Mason)

- There was an existing activity in Mason County's work plan when Heidi came into the position. The activity was to provide SHS training for childcare providers. She knew that Head Start/ECEAP held two staff meetings a year with different breakout sessions, during which a number of different topics are touched upon.
- Heidi felt that this would be the perfect opportunity to share SHS information with people who work closely with families. She knew she would be able to reach people in Grays Harbor, Mason and Thurston because this program covers a three county area.
- She contacted the health services director for the Head Start program and asked if they still needed presenters for their spring training. She described the training and offered to do it for free. They were excited about the idea and she is scheduled to present on March 21st at their all staff training.
- Heidi has been working with SHSCAP to develop the training/presentation, and will be showing the SHS ads and conducting a couple of activities along with the presentation.
- She has also been working with the public health nurse and the childcare consultant to include a letter in their quarterly mailing to all childcare providers in the county. The letter offers the training to all childcare providers and includes some SHS brochures and posters for them to share with their staff and family. It also tells them that the training can be counted towards STARS credit, which is required annually for recertification.
- Questions for Heidi included:
 - Is the presentation on PowerPoint? It would be really helpful if other contractors could use it and adapt it for use in their counties. – Heidi's presentation includes a PowerPoint as well as interactive activities and handouts. She is hoping to use this presentation with minor adjustments when she presents to social service providers next year (school nurses, WIC). SHSCAP will post this presentation including the Power point on it's website after the presentation has been given for others to access and adapt as they see fit.

Open

Karen Potts (Adams)

- Karen has been working with McCain's food processing plant in Othello. They are a multi-national company that has implemented a plan that will ensure all plants are tobacco free by July 1, 2005. Karen was contacted in late December to be on the Tobacco transition committee that was formed at the plant and has been active in the process of educating employees.
- The plant is also helping to assist employees in their cessation efforts. The company is providing staff and dependents with \$250.00 towards cessation efforts and the state hotline has been heavily promoted. In addition, employees will be able to choose from nicotine replacement therapy, medicine, counseling, hypnotherapy and access to company tapes and reading materials that address this issue.
- March 1, 2005 was the kickoff for educating employees about the effects of smoking and SHS.
- Karen felt that working with McCain's has been very productive and she was especially impressed by the focus they place on their employee's health. She is still on the transition committee and will continue to work with this group to ensure that the process is as smooth as possible. The next major task is to establish cessation classes for employees and to create support groups for those that are going through the cessation process.
- She appreciates the support provided by SHSCAP and if anyone has questions feel free to call Karen at 509-659-3320.

Teresa Cross (Clark)

- Teresa was contacted by the Clark County Rental Association, which had been referred to her by the Vancouver Housing Authority, because of their interest in making their properties smoke-free.
- A board member requested Teresa be authorized to come and speak at the next speakers meeting in March. This group consists of property owners that own a few homes, not larger corporations, which surprised her due to the fact that people in these groups are usually more conservative.
- They are generally thinking about ways to cut costs and residences that are non-smoking will be easier to clean and will probably attract a longer term tenant. She is very excited about having the opportunity to talk to this group and is excited to see what comes of her presentation on March 29, 2005.

Comments from Other Contractors:

- Barb (Kitsap) has found that these smaller "mom and pop" groups are more likely to be aware of the costs associated with smoking and will therefore be more likely to support non-smoking policies in their rental properties. Barb also shared some statistics from that showed people were more likely to pay more for rent if they knew an apartment was smoke-free and offered to send them to Teresa. Teresa felt that would be valuable and shared some of her statistics for Kitsap County.
- Terry (Pierce) also has materials about smoke-free housing and she makes regular presentations to apartment managers and the crime-free housing division. They also have a list of smoke-free housing units on their website. In addition to that, her advisory board has put together a fact sheet that will go out

through the local ESD to families with children living in this area. She would be happy to share those with Teresa.

- Teresa will give an update on the next SHS conference call.

Danita (Lincoln)

- Danita is working on having the hospital campuses in her area go smoke-free. Any suggestions on how this has been accomplished in other counties would be helpful.
 - The main hospital in Melissa's (Whatcom) area has been smoke-free for a couple of years and she would be willing to help her get some information from the hospital on how they went through the process.
 - Terry (Pierce) can connect Danita with some of the people who are working with the hospitals in her area. They are all going through the process of becoming smoke-free and will be smoke-free by January 1, 2006.
 - SHSCAP can talk offline with Danita to share some of the information that they have available.

Melissa (Whatcom)

- Melissa wanted a little bit of information on how other counties have helped the health departments, as well as, counties designate their property as smoke-free. Who could she follow up with after the call?
 - Rachel (Clallam) and Barb (Kitsap) would be happy to talk with Melissa about that process.
 - Melissa can also talk with SHSCAP as well.

DOH Update – Tom Wiedemann DOH

- **Legislative Update**
 - The initial cut-off dates for bills to move out of committees was this past week.
 - Two SHS bills made it out of the committees.
 - The first bill was HB 5909. This bill restricts smoking in any establishment where children are allowed, but allows smoking in any other establishment.
 - The second bill is HB 2038. This bill is more comprehensive and restricts smoking everywhere, much like the ban passed in Pierce County. It specifically removes preemption.
 - There is one other bill, not directly related to SHS but still of interest that will allow for a \$1.07 increase on cigarette taxes. That money will go to the tobacco prevention program.
 - Tom reminded people to avoid conducting any activity that would be interpreted as lobbying as we are state funded.
 - Questions included:
 - When community members ask about the initiatives what kind of information can we give to them? – Tom's indicated that his standard response is: DOH cannot participate in lobbying efforts or provide information that would be interpreted as supportive of an initiative one way or another.
 - It is okay to refer them to people who have information about those initiatives, but be generic in your referrals. Tell them to go to the

legislature home page for information on specific bills. List the three main partners who deal with SHS in the state – ACA, ALA, AHA.

- State workers cannot refer people to a specific website that supports an initiative nor can they refer them to the site of a particular coalition that supports any type of legislation.

SHSCAP Update

▪ Regional Meeting Debrief

- Tammie spoke briefly about SHSCAP's opportunity to participate in each of the regional meetings in February. It's great to touch base with people in person and we appreciate all of the positive feedback we've received from everyone. We provided a lot of information to people in a relatively short time period at each of those meetings in regards to the SHS websites, Interactive Map and Smoke-Free Sunday.
 - Tammie asked if there were any follow questions – none were asked.

▪ Websites

- We wanted to touch base about the websites. Please visit those sites and send us your feedback. We are still posting some of the information we discussed at the meetings to the websites. If you visit the SHSCAP site and you don't see something that you need, please give us a call or send us an email and we will send that to you before it's posted. The updated business testimonial document should be posted shortly.

▪ Interactive Map

- Rachel (Clallam) was hoping to find out if contractors, SHSCAP and DOH could come to a consensus on how to define a restaurant. There are some inconsistencies between counties on the interactive map and she was hoping to clarify that.
 - Some counties eliminated grocery stores and malls because the overarching policy requires that the facility be smoke-free.
 - Some counties excluded fast food restaurants with drive through's because a car with a smoker in it could jeopardize the safety of the restaurant workers.
 - Other counties felt that a restaurant was a venue where a person could dine in so they included roller-skating and ice-skating rinks. This also meant take-out places were excluded.
 - There was some discussion around what counties should and should not include and the group decided that it would be good to have a more formal sense of agreement about it.
 - If there was a formal agreement on what a restaurant is, it would be easier to discuss progress with advisory councils and other groups.
 - SHSCAP will digest this information and look at what the licensing requirements are for a restaurant (in terms of a definition), as well as, entertainment venues that also provide food and come up with

a definition for the advisory group to review before bringing the discussion back to the larger group.

- Each of the regional meetings yielded great discussions about this topic. SHSCAP has combined all of the comments, suggestions, and concerns that were mentioned at the regional meetings and is working through a process that will be accurate and efficient for everyone.
- We will also integrate today's discussion into our processes, coordinate with GMMB and by the end of the month we will send out (and post on the website) more information about the processes so everyone is on the same page.
- Simultaneously, we are working to get all of the listings that have been submitted (including updates) posted to the site.
- If someone has a question that relates specifically to their county please send SHSCAP an email or call me and we can discuss that offline.

▪ **Smoke-Free Sunday Materials**

- SHSCAP is currently working with GMMB on the SFS materials. All of those materials will be posted to the contractor website for your use at the end of this month.
 - Materials that are beneficial for business owners and the general public will be posted to secondhandsmokesyou.com. but not before contractors have a chance to see them.

▪ **Calls from the General Public**

- Recently SHSCAP has fielded a few calls from the general public. We just want to remind everyone that SHSCAP is here to support contractors and not the general public.
- If you get questions from the general public that you need assistance with answering, please let them know that you will get back to them. Then contact SHSCAP, we will provide you with an answer and then you may get back to the general public.